



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nowack, et al.

Serial No.: 10/644,271

Filed: August 20, 2003

For: BALL VALVE

Art Unit: 3753

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: 5167

Attorney Docket No.: 175.7903USU
Customer No.: 27623

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, please find attached hereto form PTO-1449 listing information which may be material to the patentability of this application, filed concurrently herewith. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

- Within three (3) months of the filing date of the national application;
- Within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;
- Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
- After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

- After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
 - After the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p); and
 - After the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to or subsequent to the payment of the Issue Fee and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- Filing with RCE Under 37 CFR 1.114.

Also enclosed are copies of German Patent No. DE295 18 724 U1. Copies of available English abstracts of the aforementioned patents, patent applications and articles are enclosed herewith.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the references that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed references and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Greeley
Reg. No. 31,019
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.
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November 6, 2003

CUSTOMER NO.: 27623



Sheet 1 of 1.

FORM PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional) 175.7903USU	Application Number 10/644,271
Applicant	
Nowack, et al.	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	DE 295 18 724 U1	27.03.97	Germany				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing:

1. Information Disclosure Statement with copies of references;
2. PTO Form 1449;
3. Transmittal letter in duplicate; and
4. Postcard.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any such fees, if necessary to Deposit Account No. 01-0467 in the name of Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Greeley
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(203) 327-4500

Date: November 6, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP DD, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, , ON November 6, 2003.

Leslie Moscatello
NAME

SIGNATURE

11/06/03
DATE